

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for broadcasting an announcement signal, comprising:

broadcasting, via a computer network, a network identifier signal that uniquely identifies [[a]] the computer network;

broadcasting, via the computer network, an authorizer signal that identifies an authorizer network address on the computer network, the authorizer network address being associated with an authorizer that is configured to authorize mobile clients to utilize the computer network; and

broadcasting, via the computer network, a verifier signal that identifies a verifier network address on the computer network, the verifier network address being associated with a verifier that is configured to verify data packets sent by mobile clients utilizing the computer network.

2. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein each signal is broadcast periodically.

3. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the network identifier signal, the authorizer signal and the verifier signal are broadcast together in an announcer signal.

4. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the authorizer network address and the verifier network address are Internet Protocol (IP) addresses.

5. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the verifier is preferred verifier, and the method further comprises substituting a network address of an alternate verifier for the network address of the preferred verifier.

6. (Original) The method as recited in claim 5, further comprising determining if the preferred verifier has reached a load threshold, and wherein the substituting is performed if the load threshold is reached.

7. (Original) The method as recited in claim 5, further comprising detecting a preferred verifier failure, and wherein the substituting is performed if the preferred verifier fails.

8 – 49. (Canceled).

50. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a computer network;

a computing device configured as an authorizer;

a computing device configured as a verifier;

a signal generator that generates at least one signal for communication, the at least one signal comprising of:

a network identifier signal that identifies the computer network;

an authorizer signal that identifies an authorizer network address on the computer network, the authorizer network address associated with the authorizer that is configured to authorize mobile clients to utilize the computer network; and

a verifier signal that identifies a verifier signal that identifies a verifier network address on the computer network, the verifier network address associated with the verifier that is configured to verify data packets sent by the mobile clients utilizing the computer network.

51. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 50, wherein the at least one signal is broadcast periodically.

52. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 50, wherein the network identifier signal, the authorizer signal and the verifier signal are broadcast simultaneously in an announcer signal.

53. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 50, wherein the authorizer network address and the verifier address are Internet Protocol addresses.

54. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 50, wherein the verifier is a preferred verifier, and the system further comprises substituting a network address of an alternate verifier for the network address of the preferred verifier.

55. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 54, wherein the substituting occurs when the preferred verifier has reached a load threshold, the load threshold being the highest rate of use that is acceptable for the preferred verifier.

56. (Previously Presented) The system as recited in claim 54, wherein the substituting occurs when detecting a preferred verifier failure.

57. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium comprising instructions stored thereon that direct one or more computers to perform operations including:

broadcasting a network identifier signal that uniquely identifies a computer network;

broadcasting an authorizer signal that identifies an authorizer network address on the computer network, the authorizer network address being associated with an authorizer that is configured to authorize mobile clients to utilize the computer network; and

broadcasting a verifier signal that identifies a verifier network address on the computer network, the verifier network address being associated with a verifier that is configured to verify data packets sent by mobile clients utilizing the computer network.

58. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium recited in claim 57, wherein each signal is broadcast periodically.

59. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium recited in claim 57, wherein the network identifier signal, the authorizer signal and the verifier signal are broadcast together in an announcer signal.

60. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium recited in claim 57, wherein one or both of the authorizer network address and the verifier network address are Internet Protocol addresses.

61. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium recited in claim 57, wherein the verifier is a preferred verifier and the operations further comprise substituting a network address of an alternate verifier for the network address of the preferred verifier.

62. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium recited in claim 61, further comprising determining when the preferred verifier has reached a load threshold, and wherein the substituting is performed when the load threshold is reached.

63. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium recited in claim 61, further comprising detecting a preferred verifier failure, and wherein the substituting is performed when the preferred verifier fails.